The Importance of Collaboration

Megan Soulsby

Liberty University

Annotated Bibliography/Summary

Collaboration is an effort to work together. In a special education situation, the child with special needs may have two different teachers-the special education teacher and the regular classroom teacher. They may also have a need for a counselor. Therefore, roles can be stepped on and feathers can be ruffled. Therefore Idol and Baran (1992) stated a few suggestions to help in this matter

When dealing with different levels of professionals then duties and lines can become crossed. This is why collaboration is needed. Idol and Baran (1992) explains that a good solution to a dilemma is to create collaborative model of consultation within a school system. The reason they found the collaborative term to be important because sometimes they found that consultant instantly meant someone who serves as an expert. Idol and Baran (1992) stated that expert was the word causing conflict between the teacher, special education teacher, and counselor.

Therefore in collaboration they divided the skills that needs to be monitor and the counselor skills were such as study skills, behavior problems, and assessing learning. The resource-consulting service would provide indriect consulting services and direct resource services. Indirect services are when the special education teachers refer to the regular classroom teachers and give them suggestions of the behaviors they have seen in the special education classroom.

References

Idol, L., & Baran, S. (1992). Elementary School Counselors and Special

Educators Consulting Together: Perilous Pitfalls or Opportunities to Collaborate?. *Elementary School Guidance and Counseling*, *26*(3), 202-13. Retrieved from ERIC database.

Critique

It is sad to see how power can get in the way of helping a child. If everyone would keep a common goal of this child, then these situations would not occur. Idol and Baran (1992) even said that some professionals do this because of career ladder credit or higher salaries. It a teacher’s or counselors own desires get in the way of their personal wants such a career ladder of higher salaries, the that professional has lost the desire to help the child and the only person who is going to suffer from this is the child. Idol and Baran (1992) explained it great when they developed a specific layout of the different collaborating duties. It is important that each school has one. If teachers and counselors do not under the importance of counseling and they abuse their power with it then unnecessary problems are going to arise. Consulting is not telling one person what to do. It is getting together and considering the best way to help the child. It is getting advice from someone who may have more knowledge in that area. But if the person who has more knowledge in the area needed then that person needs to maintain a form of humbleness and realize that this is for the betterment of the child not the betterment of her professional career.

Overall, teaching professionals need to realize that one is in this for the children and the betterment of child and not their career. But in addition there is a flow chart that is needed to stop these problems within a school system.